

San Francisquito Creek Flood Control Concerns

Save The Oaks

Upstream of 101: Creekside Oaks >



Steelhead Spawning



Save The Oaks

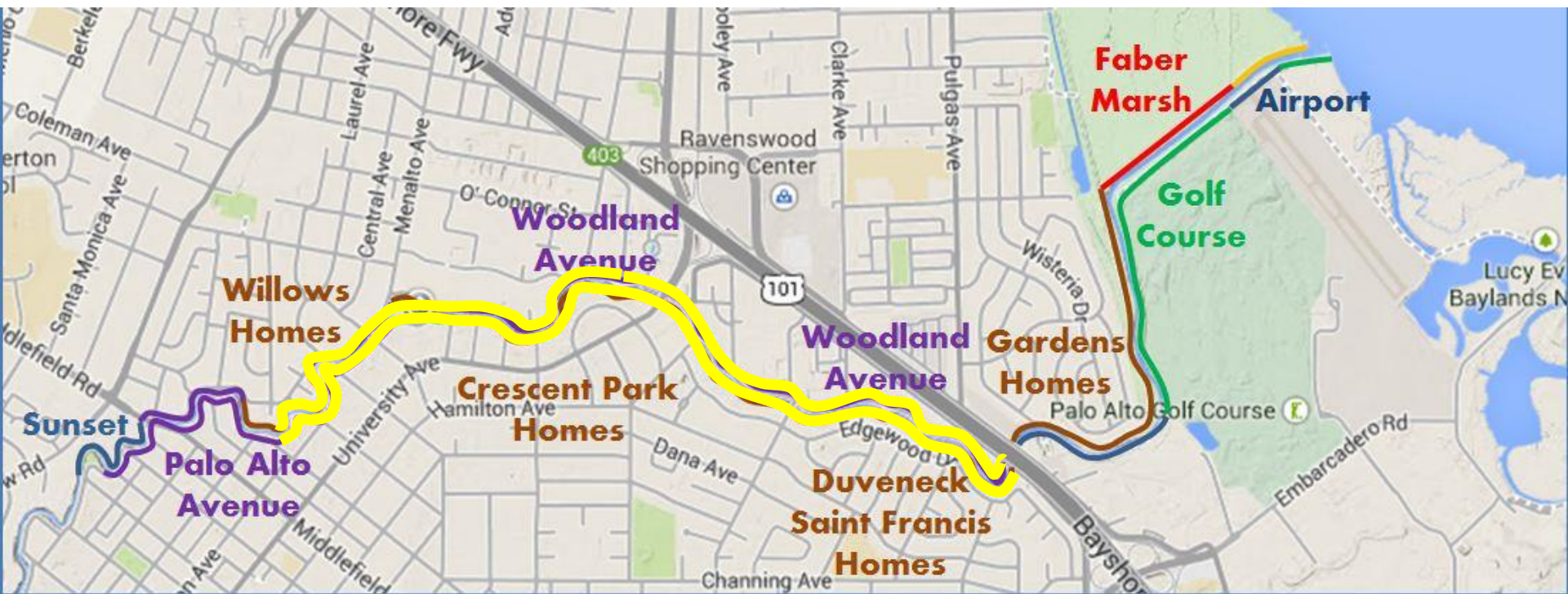


- Devoted to saving the San Francisco Creek's oak woodlands and biodiversity
- More emails opposing floodwalls Upstream of 101 than any other topic in 2014

Save The Oaks support - Walking distance of the creek

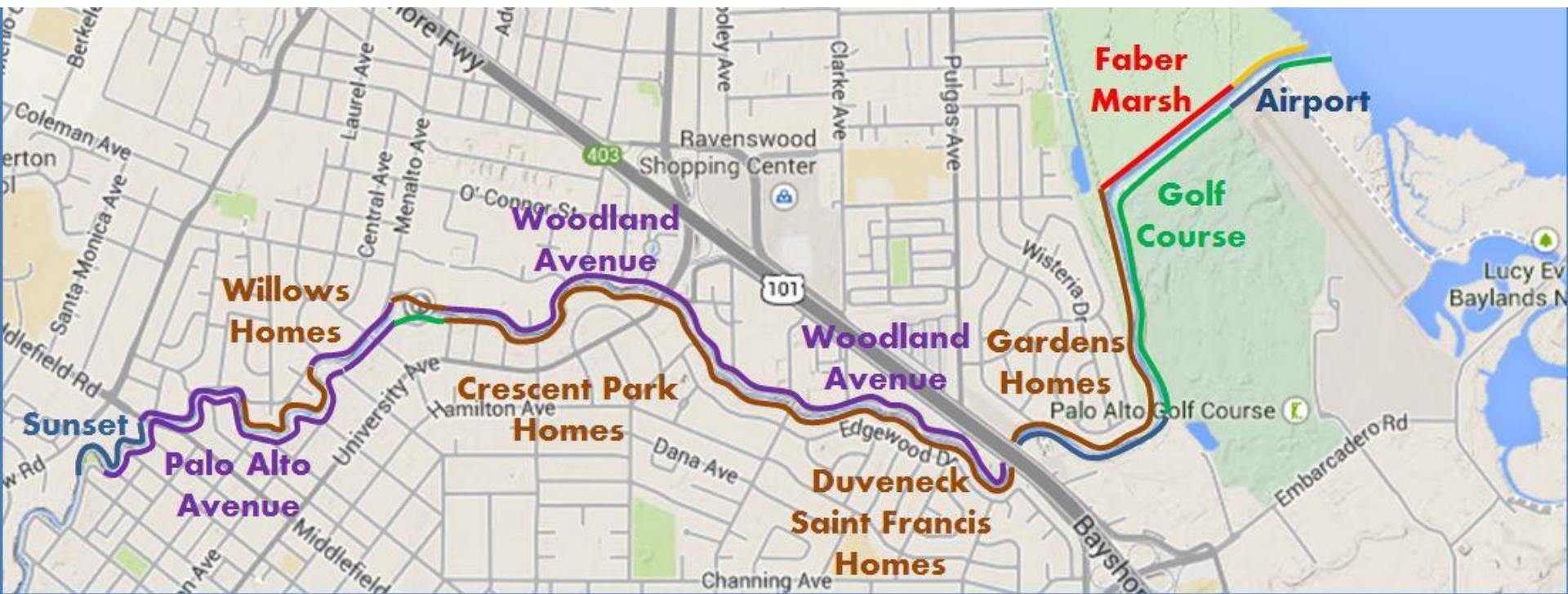


Floodwall Alternatives



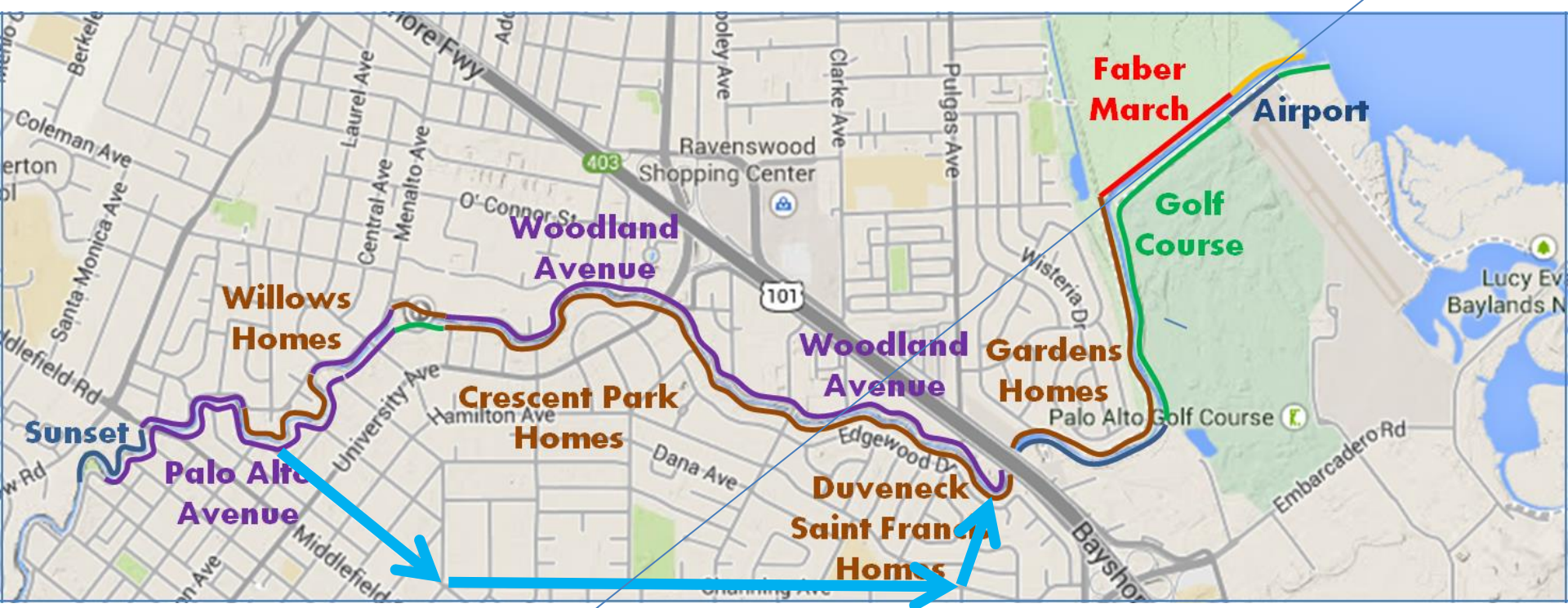
- Keep all the storm peak runoff in the channel – the “storm drain” approach
- ~6' to 7' floodwalls above University, likely higher University to 101
- **3,000 to 4,000 trees at severe risk above 101**
- **Very strong opposition from local residents**

Upstream Alternatives



- Upstream detention of 1% peak flows
- Example: Web Ranch, modified Searsville Lake (Stanford?)
- Much smaller project needed below 101
- **No floodwalls above 101**
- **Few trees at risk above 101**

Diversion Alternatives



- Divert storm peak flows under city streets
- Example: Guinda > Channing > Greer (homeowner opposition to construction)
- Keep storm runoff in the channel below 101
- 3' to 4' floodwalls and levees below 101
- **No floodwalls above 101**
- **Few trees at risk above 101**
- **Requires excellent downstream of 101 design**
 - lowest possible water surface levels to get water back into the creek

Downstream of 101 Golf Course & JPA Projects



Keeping downstream of 101 levels and velocities low is critical

- Current design has high 6 to 10 fps velocities
 - And depths up to 16 feet
- SCVWD design guidelines: use riprap above 4 fps
- Need a 50% wider channel design
 - For erosion protection without riprap
 - For Steelhead fish passage
 - For restoring a natural channel ecosystem
 - Not just a storm drain

Sedimentation has been glossed over

- Searsville is trapping the sediment now
- Most likely, sedimentation is going to increase dramatically in the San Francisquito Creek watershed in the next 5 to 40 years
 - Searsville dam stays and fills up, or
 - Creek is no longer impounded behind Searsville
 - Decision within a year
- Design does not anticipate either change
- Channel may need to be wider



Protecting EPA Residents vs. Protecting the PA Golf Course

- Current design builds the Golf Course levee 6” higher than the East Palo Alto levee
- For the first few years, if we get a giant flood, EPA gets the flooding.
- We suggest that in all cases, and at all points in time, levees protecting residents of EPA are designed to always be at least 1 foot higher than the levees protecting the Palo Alto Golf Course.

Please permit the EPA levees ASAP.

For the PA golf course levees, there is time to design a better project with both flood and ecological protections

- Construction window is August-November
- JPA: June 2014 permits = August 2014 start
- Same for 2015...
- There is no need to rush a permit right now
- There is a need to change the dynamic

A better golf course levee design

- A better design needs a better process
- Water Board could request that for the the Coastal Conservancy manage an open, comprehensive collaborative redesign with all the right specialists involved: biologists, hydro-geomorphologists, marsh restorationists, flood plane experts, etc... and representatives of the public.
- We have the time to do this without impacting an August 2015 construction start date - if we start soon.